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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Tibet

SUBJECT    Observations Regarding Nature of Chinese Communist  
             Infiltration of Tibet

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2. Tibetans as a whole are opposed to Communism and Chinese Communism has not so far captured the support of any large group of the Tibetan people. But Red China wants - and needs - Tibet, not economically but politically as an outpost from which to proceed in assisting the Soviet subversion of the rest of Asia - primarily India. Their plan for the domination of Tibet is unlike the usual Communist pattern: the doctrines have been adapted to suit the environment. They have emphasized their high esteem for religion and have made a great show of upholding Buddhism, even to terming their policy in Tibet "Buddhu-Marxism". They have not moved to change any of the customs. There is no talk of land reform, no appeal to the masses. They are rather enlisting the interest of the ruling class; the nobility (the one hundred or so families which under the existent feudal system, rule all the land and the destinies of the people on that land), and the ecclesiastical organization. Some few of the noblemen defected to the Communist cause in 1948 when the Chinese internal war was going on; most of them, however, have cooperated but mildly and only in order to insure their privileged position.

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[REDACTED]

3. Chinese Communist activities in Tibet have so far, been confined to two channels:

(a) Military

- (1) Under the terms of the Tibetan-Chinese Treaty (1951) there was to have been set up a high military council composed of both Chinese and Tibetans, but it has not yet been established, principally because of Tibetan opposition. Chinese generals have headquarters in Tibet but theirs are not provost duties; they are concerned primarily with the discipline and training of the cadres under their jurisdiction. Red Chinese soldiers are expected to be self-supporting, to cultivate the land and raise their own food.
- (2) There is no longer a Tibetan Army, per se; it has been incorporated into the Red Chinese Army of occupation. The poorly equipped, underpaid and ill-trained Tibetan soldiers could never match the Chinese forces, but under Chinese training they are developing into good soldiers. The free world should not ignore the fact that like the Chinese, the Tibetans can be groomed into good fighting men, though they cannot do it for themselves, and of themselves they will never present a formidable problem because of the relative scarcity of the Tibetan population.
- (3) Within the past two months (Jan and Feb '52) [REDACTED] received direct word from Changtu (or: Chamdo), Lhasa, Tashi Lumpo and Gyangtse of the presence of Chinese Communist occupation forces there. [REDACTED] there are cadres in Gartok and in some of the stations on the stations on the Indian border. [REDACTED] concerning strength and troop movements [REDACTED] estimate that the total strength is closer to 50,000 than to the 150,000 figure published in the US press [REDACTED]

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(b) Civilian-political

- (1) Chinese advisors, and a few Tibetans, are concentrating on indoctrinating the ruling classes; the government officials and the lamas. The keynote of this propaganda is China's benevolence to minority nationals. Basic Communist books have been translated into colloquial Tibetan, and distributed freely. [REDACTED] one pamphlet, [REDACTED] which is entitled, "The Leader of the Chinese People - the Life of Mao Tse Tung, His Writings and Speeches" (actually synopses of these utterances with heavy emphasis on Mao's promises to Asia's underprivileged area.) It is written in simple Tibetan and was published by the Minority Nationals Commission in Peking; the first printing was in 1951, and the second (of 5,000-7,000 copies) in 1952.
- (2) The Chinese Communists are concentrating their indoctrination efforts on the three lamasteries: Ganden, Sera and Drepung, in the Lhasa suburbs. Lamas come from all over the country to these monasteries, the seats of highest learning in Tibet, to complete their education. Here, by discussion groups and the circularizing of propaganda materials, the Communists are courting the interest of the lamas, whom they have astutely deemed the most likely converts to Communism. Each year when the monks go out from the monasteries back to their home villages, they can (and have) spread the doctrine of "Buddha-Marxism" among the villagers. [REDACTED] the lamas are tending toward Communism, [REDACTED] no instance of mass conversion or successful Communist infiltration into any specific monastery.

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4. [REDACTED] Tibet's economic condition has either bettered or worsened materially during Chinese Communist occupation. The country's population is so small that one does not hear from year to year whether the national crop yield is good or bad, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] many are living on the subsistence line and could not reduce their diet much more. Food prices, especially on rice, the greater part of which is imported, have risen considerably in the last two years (1952-1953), which fact has been blamed on the Red Chinese army of occupation. It is not so much a matter of increased consumption nor has there been a famine, but the presence of the Communist military symbolizes future trouble to the Tibetans and they have taken to storing a food reserve in their own homes, hoarding against that day.

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5. 25X1X [REDACTED] no concrete cases of torture or intimidation. The Communists seem to be moving slowly; they have tried to leave conditions as unchanged as possible, to implant their doctrines imperceptibly and with infinite patience. But the Western world must never lose sight of their long-range designs on Tibet, all a part of the Soviet master plan to Communize Asia and the world.

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